

# TOP TEN

## NATIVE SHORELINE PLANTS FOR BURNETT COUNTY, WI



*For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat*

*Interested in beautifying  
your property and helping  
your lake?*

## GROW NATIVE PLANTS!



### WHY PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?

Because native plants are suited to the local climate and soils, and local wildlife – from birds to butterflies – depend upon native plants for their survival. This short list of native plants will help make your planting project a success.

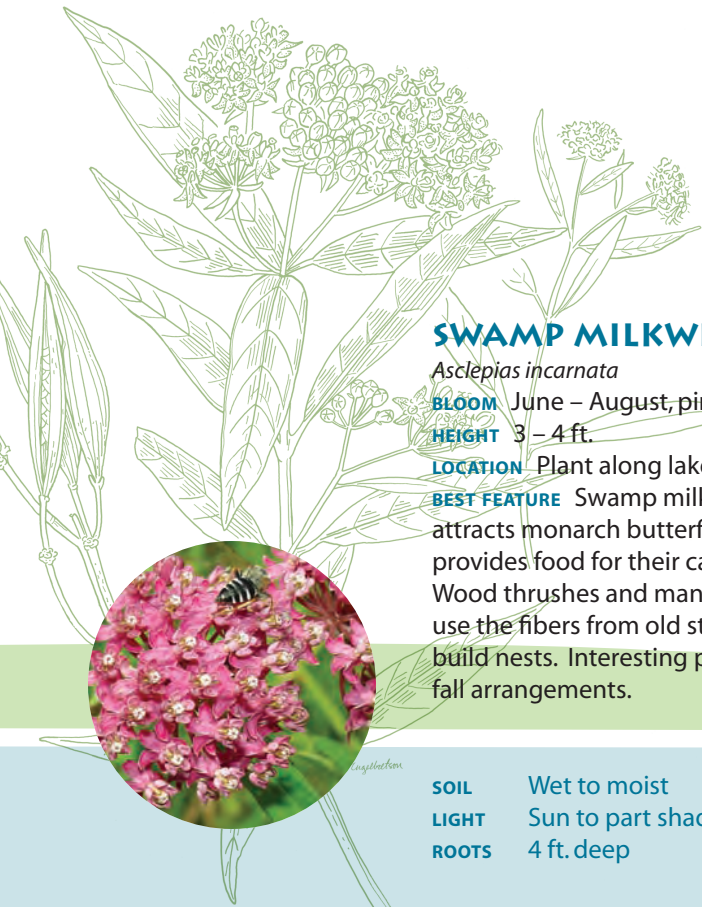
### PLANTING TIPS

**SOIL:** The sandy soils of Burnett County make plant establishment a challenge. The selected top ten plants are suited for the county's harsh conditions. Choose plants that are suited to your site, follow the county's soil condition recommendations.

**PLANTING:** Planting early (mid-May to mid-June) and late (mid-August to mid-September) in the growing season adds to planting success. Follow the soil, moisture and light recommendations to choose the best planting location.

**WATERING:** The most important advice for plant survival is WATER, WATER, WATER for the first year or two!





## SWAMP MILKWEED

*Asclepias incarnata*

**BLOOM** June – August, pink flowers

**HEIGHT** 3 – 4 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge

**BEST FEATURE** Swamp milkweed attracts monarch butterflies and provides food for their caterpillars. Wood thrushes and many birds use the fibers from old stems to build nests. Interesting pods for fall arrangements.

<b>SOIL</b>	Wet to moist
<b>LIGHT</b>	Sun to part shade
<b>ROOTS</b>	4 ft. deep



## BLUE VERVAIN

*Verbena hastata*

**BLOOM** June – September, blue flowers

**HEIGHT** 2 – 6 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge.

**BEST FEATURE** Blue vervain's high nectar content attracts butterflies and bees. Sandpipers, cardinals and juncos eat the seeds. Best of all, it blooms all summer!

<b>SOIL</b>	Wet to moist
<b>LIGHT</b>	Sun to part shade





## CHOCKECHERRY

*Prunus virginiana*

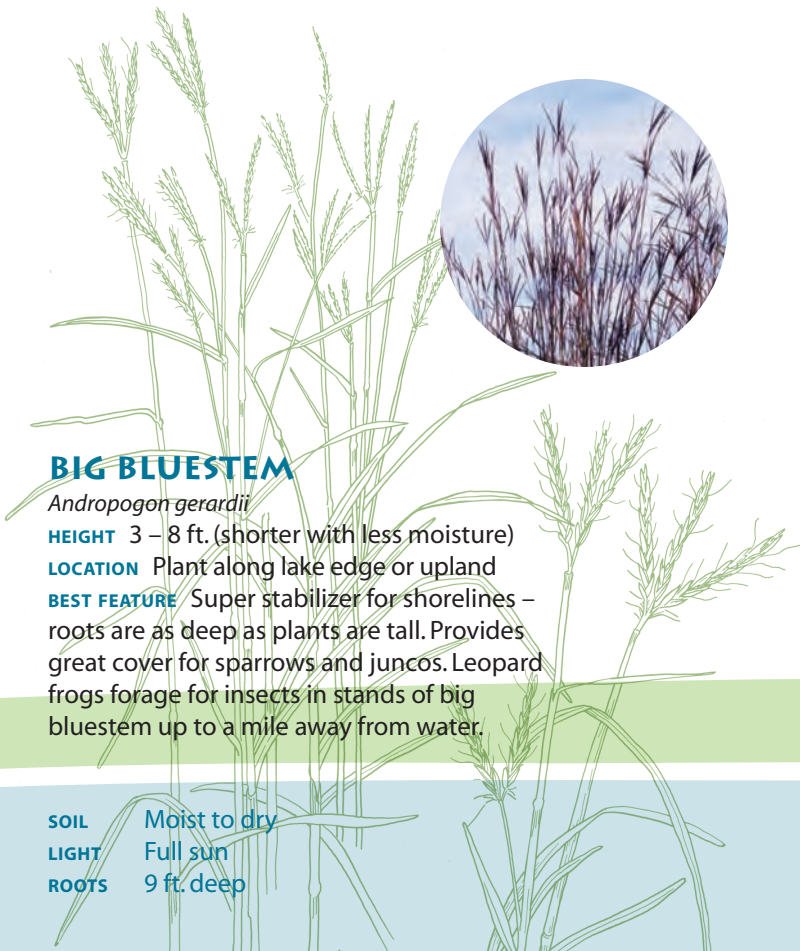
**BLOOM** May – June, white flowers

**HEIGHT** up to 20 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant near the lake edge and in upland areas

**BEST FEATURE** Incredible aroma of spring flowers. Ruffed grouse and many other birds and mammals love the bright red summer fruit. Often, a dozen or more birds can be seen feeding on the ripe cherries in a single shrub.

**SOIL** Moist to dry  
**LIGHT** Full sun to part shade  
**ROOTS** 24 ft. deep



## BIG BLUESTEM

*Andropogon gerardii*

**HEIGHT** 3 – 8 ft. (shorter with less moisture)

**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge or upland

**BEST FEATURE** Super stabilizer for shorelines – roots are as deep as plants are tall. Provides great cover for sparrows and juncos. Leopard frogs forage for insects in stands of big bluestem up to a mile away from water.

**SOIL** Moist to dry  
**LIGHT** Full sun  
**ROOTS** 9 ft. deep





## BERGAMOT

*Monarda fistulosa*

**BLOOM** July – August, lavender flowers

**HEIGHT** 3 – 4 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge

Also grows in dry upland areas.

**BEST FEATURE** Bergamot spreads to fill large areas. Aromatic leaves make a great mint tea. A rich nectar source for monarch butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Birds feed on the seeds in fall and winter.

**SOIL** Moist to dry

**LIGHT** Sun to part shade

**ROOTS** 4 ft. deep

## BLACK EYED SUSAN

*Rudbeckia hirta*

**BLOOM** June – October, gold flowers

**HEIGHT** 1 – 3 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge or in open areas  
Will tolerate a range of moisture conditions.

**BEST FEATURE** Blooms shortly after planting. Will spread from seed. Provides protection and food for songbirds, and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. Seed heads are an attractive silhouette in the winter garden.

**SOIL** Dry to medium

**LIGHT** Sun to part shade

**ROOTS** 6 ft. deep





## SNOWBERRY

*Symphoricarpos albus*

**BLOOM** June – August, pink flowers, white berries

**HEIGHT** 2 – 4 ft.

**LOCATION** Plant in open areas or along the edge of woods

**BEST FEATURE** Not favored by deer. Pink flowers and white berries persist through summer. Soft, leafy foliage.

**SOIL** Dry to medium  
**LIGHT** Full sun to part shade  
**ROOTS** 18 ft. deep



## BIG LEAF ASTER

*Aster macrophyllus*

**BLOOM** August – October, lavender flowers

**HEIGHT** 1 – 2 ft.

**LOCATION** Shady edges and woodlands

**BEST FEATURE** Foilage provides rich green ground cover and shelter for ground nesting birds like the wood thrush. Late summer lavender flowers harmonize with fall colors.

**SOIL** Dry to medium  
**LIGHT** Full shade to part shade  
**ROOTS** 10 ft. deep



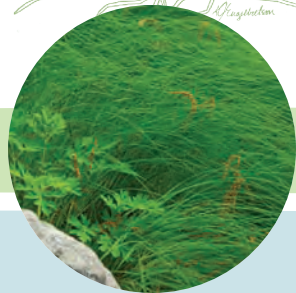
## PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE

*Carex pennsylvanica*

**HEIGHT** 6 – 8 in.

**LOCATION** Woodlands, pathways

**BEST FEATURE** Provides a soft, low understory to stabilize sandy soils. A perfect no-mow alternative to turf grass. Will tolerate a range of conditions. Beautiful form.



**SOIL** Dry to medium  
**LIGHT** Part sun to full shade  
**ROOTS** 1 – 2 ft. deep



## COLUMBINE

*Aquilegia canadensis*

**BLOOM** May – June, coral/yellow flowers

**HEIGHT** 2 – 3 ft.

**LOCATION** Woodlands, pathway borders

**BEST FEATURE** Hummingbirds visit this delicate woodland flower in early summer.



**SOIL** Dry to medium  
**LIGHT** Full shade to part shade  
**ROOTS** 1 – 2 ft. deep



## TOP TEN NATIVE SHORELINE PLANTS FOR BURNETT COUNTY, WI

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Find more Burnett County native plants in the Shoreland Buffer Restoration Guide for Landowners at [www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline](http://www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline).

To get free, expert landscaping advice about using these and other native plants for clean water and healthy shorelines, visit [www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline](http://www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline) or call **715.349.2186** to arrange a visit.

Brochure design: KJE Design LLC, [www.kje.com](http://www.kje.com); botanical illustrations: Karen Engelbretson. Photos: Pennsylvania Sedge: William Cullina; Big Leaf Aster: Tom Barnes; University of Kentucky. Other photos: John Haack, Karen Engelbretson, University of Wisconsin Herbarium, [www.botany.wisc.edu/herbarium](http://www.botany.wisc.edu/herbarium), Burnett County photo collection, and Amy Cronk. Funded by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Management Grant. Sponsored by the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association.



SHARE  
YOUR  
SHORE

*For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat*



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SWAMP MILKWEED PODS, CHOKECHERRY IN BLOOM, MONARCH BUTTERFLY WITH BLACK EYED SUSAN, BIG LEAF ASTER LEAVES.